

interoffice
MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioner Randy Christmann
Commissioner Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner Brian Kroshus

From: Sara Cardwell, Public Utility Analyst *SC*

Subject: PU-16-122 and PU-16-123, Oliver Wind III, LLC, 230kV Transmission Line and Wind Energy Center – Oliver & Morton Counties Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan

Date: June 13, 2017

On June 12, 2017, Oliver Wind III, LLC, filed a tree and shrub mitigation plan in compliance with the Commission's Orders and the Certification Relating to Order Provisions, Transmission Facility Siting with accompanying Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications that the Company signed for this project.

The Company stated that 3 trees and 292 shrubs were inventoried for a total of 295 trees and shrubs. Of these, the three trees and 110 shrubs were removed and topsoil was not preserved. For the remaining 179 shrubs, the topsoil was preserved. In accordance with No. 5 of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, if the topsoil is preserved with the seed bank and root stock intact, it is presumed that the shrubs will regenerate naturally.

The Company is currently planning to plant 22 trees and 204 shrubs this year. In addition to inventorying the 226 trees and shrubs that are planted for three years for compliance with the Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, Staff has indicated to the Company that the 179 shrubs that are not replanted should also be inventoried and a 75 percent survival rate is expected at the end of the three year monitoring period.

Staff recommends the plan be approved. A motion to approve the plan will be on the agenda for your consideration at the June 16, 2017 Commission meeting.